

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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*Reaction*UNCLASSIFIED

May 1, 1975

TO: The Secretary

FROM: EA - Philip C. Habib *LH*Reactions in EA to Indochina Collapse

My Deputy for Economic Affairs, Les Edmond, just returned from the ADB meeting in Manila. During his trip he also visited Seoul and Tokyo. I thought you might be interested in the following comments that he made in his report to me upon his return yesterday.

"Most of my contacts were with Finance Ministry representatives, bankers, and businessmen who would not normally volunteer to discuss foreign policy issues. Despite this fact, the implications for Southeast Asia of the U.S. withdrawal in Viet-Nam and Cambodia were uppermost in almost everyone's mind. I was continually being pressed as to whether the South Vietnamese and Cambodians' collapse meant that the U.S. would withdraw from Southeast Asia. The Koreans and Filipinos obviously were deeply concerned as to whether we would be prepared to honor our commitments to them and pressed me continuously on that score. None of this is of course particularly surprising, but what was most striking was the depth of the feeling. In Korea, for example, I went to discuss the problem of the defaulted cotton contracts. My Korean industry hosts could only think of the U.S.-Korean security relationship and this was the subject of the welcoming toast to me and my response."

Drafted: EA: *JH* Helble/sb
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